THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) Cost of production of crude oil is worked out in respect of crude produced from all oil producing wells taken together and not in respect of each well separately. Accordingly, comparison of current costs of production from wells producing oil from before 1968 and those producing since after 1968 is not possible. Appropriate steps are taken for keeping under control costs of producing oil.

Problems of telecommunication technicians

1225. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) for how long the telecommunication technical personnel adopted work to rule policy as a means of agitation to enlighten their demands;

(b) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to solve their problems; and

(c) what are the impediments for not converting manual and auto exchanges into electronic ones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) At present the Bharatiya Telecom Technical Union is on work to rule agitation for an indefinite period from 26.7.88.

(b) Talks were held with the union representatives. Concilliation proceedings were held by the CLC(C). The union was advised to call off the unjustified agitation.

(c) The commercial production of indigenous electronic exchange equipments has just commenced. At present, the availability of electronic exchange equipment is considerably lower than that required to concert manual/ automatic exchanges into electronic exchanges. The department is replacing manual exchanges and auto-exchanges which have already rendered their useful service life by electronic exchanges in phases and depending on the availability of equipment. However, the production capacity in respect of these exchanges is likely to be stepped up in the near future. It has been decided to convert all existing manual exchanges into automatic exchanges by the end of 8th five year plan. A large part of these automatic exchanges will be electronics.

Pending Hydro Electric Schemes of Tamil Nadu

1226. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hydro electric schemes submitted by Tamil Nadu Government which are still pending clearance of the centre since 1967;

(b) how many such schemes have been cleared since 1967; and

(c) what are the reasons for the delay in clearance of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (c) At present only one Project Report of Paralayar Hydroelectric Project (1X25 MW) is pending for clearance in the Central Electricity Authority. The technical examination of the project has been nearly completed and some additional data has been called for from Tamil Nadu Electricity Board which is till awaited. Five other schemes submitted by Tamil Nadu Electricity Board were returned by the Central Electricity Authority as these involved interstate aspects. The Board has been advised to submit revised Project Reports after inter-State aspects are resolved. 11hydel schemes of Tamil Nadu have been approved since 1967.